'Do or Die' agitation announced by ABSU

331. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All-Bodo Students Union Volunteer Force has announced a 'do or die' agitation against the Assam Government and the Centre for the creation of Bodoland in Assam;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has taken any fresh steps to find a solution to the Bodo problem; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) One such report datelined Siliguri, 30th June 89 has come to notice.

(b) and (c) The Government of India are not in favour of any further division of the State of Assam. They have advised the Govt. of Assam to have meaningful dialogue with the leadership of Plains Tribals, attend to their genuine grievances with sympathy and urgency, to take measures to reduce regional disparities and speed up their socio-economic development.

RBI action for streamline of bank loans to poor under Anti Poverty Programme

332. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA;

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has undertaken studies to streamline the distribution of bank loans to the poor people under anti poverty programme;

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps RBI proposes to take in this regard;

(c) to what extent the new system would further facilitate in providing loans to the real beneficiaries;

(d) whether it is a fact that about 20 per cent of the money so far advanced under the Integrated Rural Development Programme was misused; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken to avoid such misuse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) Presumably the Hon'ble Members are referring to the scheme of cash disbursement of loans and subsidy under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) introduced in 22 selected blocks in April, 1986. The purpose of the scheme is to ensure freedom of choice to the beneficiaries in acquiring assets. The scheme was introduced on an experimental basis.

The performance of the above system was last reviewed jointly by RBI and NABARD during 1987 which revealed that the experiment of cash disbursement in selected blocks was a mixed experience of having both advantages and disadvantages. However, recently it has been decided to extend the scheme to 28 more blocks in the country, bringing the total to 50.

(d) and (e) Department of Rural Development have advised that no specific studies have been carried out regarding the misutilisation of funds under IRDP. However, various steps have been taken to avoid mis-utilisation of funds as well as the leakages in the implementation of the IRDP. Some of